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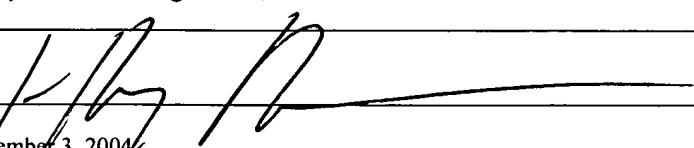
(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Total Number of Pages in This Submission	6	Application Number 10/747,718
		Filing Date December 29, 2003
		First Named Inventor Rafael L. Espinoza
		Art Unit 1755
		Examiner Name *
		Attorney Docket Number 1856-23101 (9595.0-01)

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

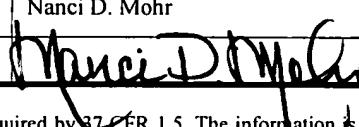
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group <i>(Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) <i>(please identify below):</i> <i>Form PTO-1449 (3 p.), and acknowledgment postcard</i>
Remarks		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm Or Individual Name	Jeffrey L. Johnson, Reg. No. 53,078		
Signature			
Date	November 3, 2004		

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

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Signature		Date	November 3, 2004

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Rafael L. Espinoza et al. § Group Art Unit: 1755
Serial No.: 10/747,718 § Examiner: Unknown
Filed: December 29, 2003 §
For: Improved Catalysts for the § Client Ref. No.: 9595.0-01
Conversion of Methane to §
Synthesis Gas §

Atty. Dkt. No.: 1856-23101 (9595.0-01)

Date: November 3, 2004

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement, including completed Form PTO-1449, comprises a list of pertinent art of which Applicants are aware. If this application was filed prior to June 30, 2003, a copy of each publication listed on Form PTO-1449 is enclosed herewith.

The submission of this Information Disclosure Statement and the references submitted therewith is not an admission that the art cited is "prior" with respect to the present invention, nor is it a representation, that no better art exists. Applicants hereby reserve the right to swear behind or otherwise disprove any alleged "prior" nature of any art cited should the facts support and the situation warrant such an action. It is submitted that the art cited does not constitute a bar to the patentability of Applicants' invention under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or § 103.

Consideration of the following related applications and additional information (including any relevant co-pending or abandoned U.S. applications, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested:

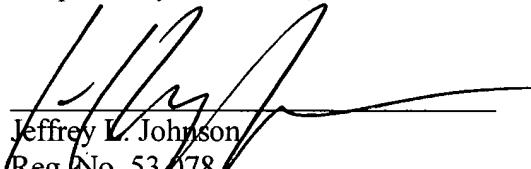
Application Serial No. 60/437,071, filed December 30, 2002, "Improved Catalysts for the Conversion of Methane to Synthesis Gas" and U.S. Utility Application Serial No. 60/437,124 entitled "Use of Nonmicroporous Support for Syngas Catalyst."

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98 (d), copies of certain patents, publications, pending U.S. application(s) or other information, as specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.98 (a), listed in the attached

Form PTO-1449 are not provided herewith, as they have been previously submitted to, or cited by, the Office in the above-mentioned earlier U.S. Patent Application(s). The Information Disclosure Statement filed in the earlier application(s) complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98 (a)-(c).

No Office Action on the merits has been received in the present application, and Applicant believes that no fee is due. In the event that an Office Action dated prior to the mailing date of this Information Disclosure Statement has been issued, please charge Deposit Account 03-2769, Conley Rose, P.C., in the amount of \$180, so that this Information Disclosure Statement may be considered under Rule 1.97(c).

Respectfully submitted,



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ATTORNEY/AGENT FOR APPLICANT

Atty. Docket No.
1856-23101
(9595.0-01)Serial No.
10/747,718**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use several sheets if necessary)

NSV 03 2004

Applicant
Rafael L. Espinoza et al.Filing Date
December 29, 2003Group
1755**REFERENCE DESIGNATION U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
AA	4,601,859	07/22/86	Galle et al.	558	459	
AB	5,431,855	7/11/95	Green	252	373	
AC	5,447,705	9/5/95	Petit	423	418.2	
AD	5,500,149	3/19/96	Green	252	373	
AE	5,510,056	4/23/96	Jacobs	252	373	
AF	5,648,582	7/15/97	Schmidt	585	652	
AG	5,149,464	9/22/92	Green	252	373	
AH	5,023,276	6/11/91	Yarrington	514	703	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	Translation YES NO
AI	WO9301130	1/21/93	PCT	C01B	31/18	
AJ	EP0303438	2/15/89	EPO	C01B	3/38	

OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

AK	Geankolis, Christie J.; <i>Transport Processes and Unit Operations</i> ; p. 837; 1983
AL	Maximilian Fichtner, et al; <i>Microstructured Rhodium Catalysts for the Partial Oxidation of Methane to Syngas Under Pressure</i> ; Ind. Eng. Chem. Res. 2001, 40:3475-3483.
AM	A.G. Dietz III and L.D. Schmidt; <i>Effect of Pressure on Three Catalytic Partial Oxidation Reactions at Millisecond Contact Times</i> ; Catalysis Letters 33 (1995) 15-29.
AN	A.T. Ashcroft, et al; <i>Selective Oxidation of Methane to Synthesis Gas Using Transition Metal Catalysts</i> ; Letters to Nature, Vol. 344, 1990.
AO	Patrick D.F. Vernon, et al.; <i>Partial Oxidation of Methane to Synthesis Gas</i> ; Catalysis Letters 6 (1990) 181-186.
AP	K.L. Hohn and L.D. Schmidt; <i>Partial Oxidation of Methane to Syngas at High Space Velocities Over Rh-coated Spheres</i> ; Applied Catalysis A: General 211 (2001) 53-68.
AQ	Jacek A. Lapszewicz and Xuan-Zhen Jiang; <i>Characteristics and Performance of Catalysts for Partial Oxidation of Natural Gas to Syngas</i> ; Symposium on Chemistry and Characterization of Supported Metal Catalysts Presented Before the Division of Petroleum Chemistry, Inc., 206 th National Meeting, American Chemical Society, Chicago, IL; August 22-27, 1993.
AR	A. Cybulski and Jacob A. Moulijin; <i>Structured Catalyst and Reactors: Transformation of Structured Carrier into Structured Catalyst</i> ; Chapter 21, pp 599-615, 1998
AS	Tsang, S.C. et al, <i>Recent Advances in the Conversion of Methane to Synthesis Gas</i> , Catal. Today 23:3-15 (1995).
AT	Yuzaki, Koichi et al., <i>Catalytic Decomposition of N₂O Over Supported Rhodium Catalysts: High Activities of Rh/USY and Rh/AL₂O₃, and the Effect of Rh Precursors</i> , Catalysis Letters 47 (1997) 173-175.
AU	E. Ruckenstein and H.Y. Wang; <i>Partial Oxidation of Methane to Synthesis Gas Over MgO-supported Rh Catalysts: the Effect of Precursor of MgO</i> ; Applied Catalysis A: General 198 (2000) 33-41.

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.



Form PTO/SB/449 (Modified)(CONTINUED)

Atty. Docket No. 1856-23101 (9595.0-01)	Serial No. 10/747,718
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Applicant Rafael L. Espinoza et al.
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Filing Date December 29, 2003	Group 1755
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT
 (Use several sheets if necessary)
REFERENCE DESIGNATION U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AV	5,252,613	10/12/93	<i>Chang et al.</i>	518	700	
	AW	5,382,748	01/17/95	<i>Behrmann et al.</i>	585	899	
	AX	5,348,982	09/20/94	<i>Herbolzheimer et al.</i>	518	700	
	AY	5,827,902	10/27/98	<i>Maretto et al.</i>	518	706	
	AZ	5,961,933	10/05/99	<i>Casanave et al.</i>	422	211	
	BA	6,060,524	05/09/00	<i>Casanave et al.</i>	518	706	
	BB	6,156,809	12/05/00	<i>Clark et al.</i>	518	719	
	BC	6,169,120	01/02/01	<i>Beer</i>	518	715	
	BD	6,403,660 B1	06/11/02	<i>Espinoza et al.</i>	518	700	
	BE	2003/0096881	05/22/03	<i>Minkkinen et al.</i>	518	728	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	Translation YES NO
	BF	WO96/16737	6/6/96	PCT	B01J	37/02	
	BG	WO99/48805	9/30/99	PCT	C01B	3/40	
	BH	0640561	3/1/95	EP	C01B	3/40	
	BI	0333037	9/20/89	EP	C01B	3/40	
	BJ	0974551	1/26/00	EP	C01B	3/40	
	BK	WO 99/37580	07/29/99	PCT	C01B	3/40	
	BL	0 558 343 A1	01.09.93	EP			

OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

BM	(PCT) Results of Partial International Search
BN	European Search Report, EP 01 97 0632 dated August 14, 2003, 2 pages
BO	S. Bernal et al., "Influence of the preparation procedure on the chemical and microstructural properties of lanthana promoted Rh/SiO ₂ catalysts A FTIR spectroscopic study of chemisorbed CO", Journal of Alloys and Compounds 250 (1997) 461-466
BP	Michael F. Mark et al., "CO ₂ -Reforming of Methane on Supported Rh and Ir Catalysts", Journal of Catalysis 164 (1996) 122-130
BQ	Qian-Gu Yan et al., "Promoting Effect of Rare Earth Oxides On Ni/Re _x O _y -Al ₂ O ₃ Catalyst for Partial Oxidation of Methane to Synthesis Gas", Journal of Natural Gas Chemistry, Vol. 6, No. 2 (1997) 93-100
BR	V.R. Choudhary et al., "Oxidative Conversion of Methane to Syngas over Nickel Supported on Commercial Low Surface Area Porous Catalyst Carriers Precoated with Alkaline and Rare Earth Oxides", Journal of Catalysis, Vol. 172, No. 2 (1997) 281-293

EXAMINER**DATE CONSIDERED**

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.

Form PTO-1449 (Modified) INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)					Atty. Docket No. 1856-23101 (9595.0-01)	Serial No. 10/747,718	
					Applicant Rafael L. Espinoza et al.		
					Filing Date December 29, 2003	Group 1755	
REFERENCE DESIGNATION U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	BU	6,365,544	04/02/02	Herron et al.	502	326	
	BV	6,368,997	04/09/02	Herron et al.	502	302	
	BW	2003/0096881	05/22/03	Minkkinen et al.	518	728	
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	Translation YES NO
	BX	WO01/00595	04.01.01	WIPO	C07D	249/12	
OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
	BY	Article entitled: " <i>Hydrodynamic characterization of slurry bubble-column reactors for Fischer-Tropsch synthesis</i> ," by N.B. Jackson et al, Advanced Energy Technology Center, Sandia National Laboratories, pp. 1226-1231 (date unknown).					
	BZ	Article entitled: " <i>Non-isobaric bubble columns with variable gas velocity</i> ," by Wolf-Dieter Deckwer, Institute for Technische Chemier, Berlin, Chemical Engineering Science, Vol. 31, pp. 309-317, 1976.					
	CA	Article entitled: " <i>Analysis of the design of bubble-column reactors for Fischer-Tropsch synthesis</i> ," by David Stern et al., American Chemical Society, pp. 1213-1219, 1985.					
	CB	Article entitled: " <i>Bubble column reactors and Fischer-Tropsch</i> ," by S.C. Saxena, Catal. Rev. – Sci. Eng., 37(2), pp. 227-309, 1995.					
	CC	Article entitled: " <i>Gas holdup in slurry bubble columns: effect of column diameter and slurry concentrations</i> ," by Rajamani Krishna et al., AIChE. Journal, Vol. 43, No. 2, pp. 311-316, February 1997.					
	CD	Article entitled: " <i>Fundamentals and selection of advanced Fischer-Tropsch reactors</i> ," by S.T. Sie et al., Elsevier, Applied Catalyst A: General 186, pp. 55-70, 1999.					
	CE	Article entitled: " <i>Dynamic simulation of bubbly flow in bubble columns</i> ," by Y. Pan et al., Pergamon, Chemical Engineering Science 54, pp. 2481-2489, 1999.					
	CF	Article entitled: " <i>Numerical simulation of gas-liquid dynamics in cylindrical bubble column reactors</i> ," by Jayanta Sanyal et al., Pergamon, Chemical Engineering Science 54, pp. 5071-5083, 1999.					
	CG	Article entitled: " <i>Gas holdup and mass transfer in bubble column reactors operated at elevated pressure</i> ," by H.M. Letzel et al., Pergamon, Chemical Engineering Science 54, pp. 2237-2246, 1999.					
	CH	Article entitled: " <i>Hydrodynamic simulation of methanol synthesis in gas-liquid slurry bubble column reactors</i> ," by Yuanxiang Wu et al., Pergamon, Chemical Engineering Science 55, pp. 573-587, 2000.					
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			
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